Index Number of Wholesale Prices
(Monthly Average)

(Base 1981-82=100)

	November, 1991	December, 1991 (P)	January, 1992 (P)
Rice	223.7	228.0	237.7
Jowar	211.5	231.0	239.1
Bajra	209.8	251.7	267.7
Maize (Macca)	227.0	237.2	247.1
Ragi	164.7	169.8	174.0

(P) = Provisional

[*English*]

Restructuring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission

2711. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set-up a Committee to examine the restructuring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the restructruring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission will help to improve the oil exploration in the country;

(d) whether the Government are appointing another Committee for looking into the need fro greater managerial and financial autonomy of public enterprises in the hydrocarbon sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Government has constituted a Committee to examine all aspects of the existing organisation of Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the need for its resturctruing.

(c) This could be assessed only after knowing the recommendations of the Committee referred to above.

(d) and (e). Another Committee has been constituted by the Govemmeni to review the extent of managerial and financial autonomy and accountability of public sector enterprises in the hydrocarbon sector.

Food aid to Russia

2712. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India provided any food aid to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an aid is also being contemplated to Ethiopia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have announced a contribution of Rs. 150 million to the Russian Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance, as a gesture of friendship and in the tradition of mutual cooperation.

(b) This amount would be used to supply items identified by the Commission, viz. baby food, rice and medicines.

(c&d) India supplied medicines, baby food and milk powder worth Rs. 5 lakhs to Ethiopia in August, 1991. There is at present no proposal under consideration to render similar assistance this year.

Setting-up of National Militia

2713. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a National Militia to fight insurgency, internal disorders and terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demulsification Plant

2714. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal water percentage available in crude oil after demulsification;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the demulsification plant of some wells are not working; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to rectify the problem of demulsification in time?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The normal water percentage in crude oil after demulsification varies upto 1% in the case of light crude oils and as high as 3% or even more in respect of heavy crude oils. To overcome the problem in heavy oilfields of higher Bottom Sediments and Water (BS&W), free water content and salinity of crude, ONGC is setting up a Central Demulsification and Desalting Plant at Nawagam in Gujarat.

Prawn Production

2715. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposals to the Union Government for the large scale production of prawns in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some of the proposals submitted by Government of Kerala for prawn farming in the State and the decision taken thereon, are as under:

(i) *Kerala Project for Prawn Culture with assistance from Kuwait Fund for Arab Ecnomic Development:*

The proposal for development of prawn culture in 1500 ha. has already been approved and an agreement has been signed between Govt. of India and Kuwait Fund in 1989. Kuwait Fund will be resuming disbursement for this project from 1992-93.

(ii) *Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs):*

The proposal for establishment of three BFDAs in Alleppey, Trichur and Kozhikode was cleared by Govt. of India in Jannuary, 1992.